

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS LONDON 01453

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV RO UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH'S JAN 25 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DEPT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM TRANSCRIPT OF SMITH'S
PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE
REFERS TO A REMARK I MADE AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE
LONDON DIPLOMATIC AND COMMONWEALTH WRITERS ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 18.

2. A TRANSCRIPT OF MY COMMENT FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: QUESTION: ...THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY ISN'T

..
THERE TO WRECK THE ANGLO-AMERICAN POSITION CONSIDERING
MR. IAN SMITH MIGHT COME UP WITH SOME SORT OF SO-CALLED
INTERNAL DEAL WITH MR. SITHOLE AND MR. MUZOREWA. WHAT
IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S--IN CONCERT
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WITH OURS--REACTIONS TO ANY SUCH INTERNAL AGREEMENT?

ANSWER: I OBVIOUSLY CANNOT SPEAK FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT
AND WE HAVE REALIZED ALL THROUGH THIS THAT FOR HISTORICAL
AND LEGAL REASONS WE ARE THE JUNIOR PARTNER IN THIS
JOINT VENTURE, BUT IT IS VERY JOINT AND VERY COOPERATIVE
AND I DON'T SEE ANY LIGHT BETWEEN US. I THINK WE ARE

ON THE SAME TRACK, BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT BECAUSE I THINK I KNOW WHAT MY GOVERNMENT FEELS, THEREFORE, I AM SPEAKING FOR THE SENIOR PARTNER. I DON'T THINK THE FACT THAT A SOLUTION COMES FROM ONE PLACE OR ANOTHER IS THE DECISIVE THING. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THAT SOLUTION HOLDS A REASONABLE PROMISE OF PERMITTING A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION, FREE FROM MANIPULATION AS WELL AS FREE FROM COERCION, SO THAT IT IS

OUTSIDE RHODESIA, SO THAT IT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE A CEASE-FIRE IN THE CIVIL WAR. AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF MR. SMITH CAME TO ME AND SAID: "WELL I HAVE TAKEN IT THIS FAR AND IT IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO; I AM LEAVING NOW; WILL YOU PUT LORD CARVER IN MY PLACE AND BRING IN SOME UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS AND IN OTHER WAYS CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH YOU HAVE SET FORTH FOR A FAIR AND FREE ELECTION". THE FACT THAT MR. SMITH WAS THE ONE WHO CAME TO ME WITH THAT PROPOSAL, I WOULD NOT SAY: "OH WELL, BECAUSE IT COMES FROM YOU, I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT". BUT I DO THINK IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION UNLESS HE IS WILLING TO STAND DOWN AND PERMIT SOME NEUTRAL TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY TO SUPERVISE THE TRANSITION AND THE ELECTION, SO THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE, AT LEAST, NEGOTIATING A CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN THE RHODESIAN FORCES AND THE GUERRILLA FORCES, BECAUSE WITHOUT THAT

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IT SEEMS TO ME A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION IS JUST A PIECE OF PAPER. END QUOTE.

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